

SUMMARY OF NOUN AND VERB FORMATION

VERB or NOUN STRUCTURE	CHARACTERISTICS OF VERBS or NOUNS
VERBS	
Simple Verbs	<p>These are intransitive. That is, they cannot connect directly to the object of a sentence. For example take the verb “tidur”(to sleep). This verb cannot connect directly to an object. It must be connected to an object by first using a preposition. Look at this sentence : Saya tidur di ranjang (I sleep in bed). Notice that the verb tidur is joined to the object with the preposition “di”. Another common simple verb is pergi (to go). This verb is usually followed by the preposition “ke” (to). Look at this example : Saya pergi ke Gold Coast kemarin (I went to the Gold Coast yesterday).</p>
Ber- Verbs	<p>These are almost always intransitive as well. Look at these examples : 1. Saya berdiri di jalan (I stood in the street). 2. Saya berjalan ke sekolah (I walk to school). Notice in each case that the verb is joined to the object with a preposition, in these two examples by “di” and “ke”. Two common ber- verbs that are not intransitive and can therefore join directly to an object are “bermain” and “belajar”. Look at these two examples : 1. Saya bermain bola basket (I play basketball). 2. Saya belajar bahasa Indonesia (I study Indonesian). Because these two particular ber- verbs are not intransitive, they can connect directly to the object of the sentence.</p>
Me- Verbs	<p>All me- verbs are transitive. This means they connect directly to the object of the sentence. Look at these two examples : 1. Saya membeli sepatu di K-Mart (I bought shoes at K-Mart). 2. Saya menulis surat ke Indonesia (I wrote a letter to Indonesia). Strictly speaking, all verbs that can connect directly to an object (transitive verbs) should start with me- just like in these two examples. The only real exceptions to this rule are makan (to eat) , minum (to drink) and naik (to travel by) along with auxiliary verbs such as mau (want to) or ingin (wish to).</p>
Me – Kan Verbs	<p>These are transitive and serve three main purposes. Firstly, by adding “me – kan” you can turn a simple verb (which, as we have seen above, is intransitive) into a transitive verb. Look at these two examples : 1. Saya menidurkan bayi (I put the baby to sleep). 2. Saya memandikan anjing saya (I bathed my dog). Notice how the simple (intransitive) verbs “tidur” and “mandi” have now become transitive verbs which can connect directly to the object of the sentence.</p> <p>The second function of “me – kan” verbs is what we call the benefactive function. That is, when we do something for the benefit of someone. For example : Saya membelikan ayah mobil baru (I bought father a new car). Because the car has been bought for the benefit of father the “me – kan” structure should be used. However, if this structure is too difficult, you can use the simpler structure : Saya membeli mobil baru untuk ayah (I bought a new car for father). Either way, both these structures are saying the same thing except that the “me – kan” structure is emphasizing that something has been done for someone’s</p>

	<p>benefit. The final function of a “me – kan” verb is the causative function. When the root word is an adjective or verb, the “me – kan” combination causes that adjective or verb to happen. Take the adjective “panas” (hot) and the verb “siap” (ready) and look at these sentences : 1. Saya memanaskan makanan (I heated the food). 2. Saya menyiapkan makan malam (I prepared dinner).</p>
Memper- + Adjective	<p>These are transitive verbs with a causative function. In other words they cause the rootword (adjective) to happen). Take the adjectives “tinggi” (tall) and “lebar” (wide) and look at these dentences : 1. Developer mau mempertinggi gedung Australia Square (The developer wants to heighten the Australia Square building). 2. Pemerintah akan memperlebar Jalan Raya Pacific di Sprinwood (The Government will widen the Pacufic Highway at Springwood).</p>
Memper – Kan Verbs	<p>These are transitive verbs and their function is similar to the causative function of the “me – kan” verbs above. The only difference is that the “memper – kan” combination idicates an intensity of action. Take the verb “guna” (use) and look at the following sentences : 1. Pabrik saya menggunakan 50 karyawan (My factory uses 50 workers). 2. Pabrik saya mempergunakan 50 karyawan anak yang di bawah umur resmi (My factory takes advantage of 50 child workers underthe official age).</p>
Ber- + Nouns	<p>These are transitive verbs because you are attaching the “ber-” prefix directly to the object. The “ber-” prefix means “to have” or “to wear”. Look at the following examples : 1. Saya beranak tiga orang (I have three children). 2. Saya bermobil Mercedes dua (I have two Mercedes cars). 3. Saya bercelana jins Calvin Klein (I am wearing Calvin Klein jeans). There is a simpler way of saying these three sentences by using a “me-” verb instead of the “ber-” prefix. This is how : 1a. Saya mempunyai tiga anak (I have three children). 2a. Saya mempunyai dua mobil Mercedes (have two Mercedes cars). 3a. Saya memakai celana jins Calvin Klein (I am wearing Calvin Klein jeans).</p>
NOUNS	
Pe- Nouns	<p>If you add the prefix “pe-” to a wide range of nouns, verbs and and adjectives, it forms the noun of the person doing the root word. It is often used to express occupations . Look at these examples : 1. laut = sea, and pelaut = sailor. 2. tenis = tennis, and petenis = tennis player. 3. tulis = write, and penulis = writer. 4. besar = large, and pembesar = high-ranking official. 5. masak = to cook, and pemasak = chef. 6. malas = lazy, and pemalas = a lazy person. 7. lukis = to paint, and pelukis = painter/artist.</p>
-an Nouns	<p>If the suffix “-an” is added to certain root verbs, it converts those verbs into nouns. Look at these examples: 1. makan = to eat, and makanan = food. 2. minum = to drink, and minumam = beverage/drink 3. cuci = to wash, and cucian = laundry. 4. masak = to cook, and masakan = cuisine/type of food.</p>
Pe (root) An Nouns	<p>These are normally derived from “me-” verbs or from “me – kan” verbs. Look at these examples : 1. membaca = to read, and pembacaan = the reading of something. 2. mengirim = to send, and pengiriman = the sending of something. 3. membersihkan = to clean, and pembersihan = the cleaning of something. 4. menyelesaikan = to finish, and penyelesaian = a solution to something.</p>
Per (root) An Nouns	<p>These are normally derived from “ber-” verbs, from “memper-” verbs or from nouns. Look at these</p>

	examples : 1. berjalan = to walk, and perjalanan = a journey/trip. 2. bertanya = to ask a question, and pertanyaan = a question. 3. belajar = to study, and pelajaran = a lesson. 4. memperlebar = to widen, and perlebaran = the process of widening. 5. memperingatkan = to warn/remind, and peringatan = a warning/reminder. 6. toko = shop, and pertokoan = a shopping complex. 7. rumah = house, and perumahan = housing. 8. ikan = fish, and perikanan = fishery.
Ke (root) An Nouns	These are normally derived from intransitive verbs, adjectives and nouns. Look at these examples : 1. datang = to arrive, and kedatangan = arrival. 2. hidup = to live, and kehidupan = life/lifestyle. 3. miskin = poor, and kemiskinan = poverty. 4. bersih = clean, and kebersihan = cleanliness. 5. lapar = hungry, and kelaparan = hunger/starvation. 6. hutan = forest, and kehutanan = forestry. 7. bangsa = nation, and kebangsaan = nationality. 8. uang = money, and keuangan = finance.

The above table will assist you in knowing the type of word (Noun or Verb) you are looking at. To determine the meaning of the word using this table you will still need to identify what the root of the word is. Remember that this table only covers the formation of NOUNS and VERBS. It does not deal with the formation of certain types of adjectives. That is another lesson for another time. Selamat belajar.